



OEMC/E\$P Media Contact: Megan Castle
Megan.Castle@state.co.us
(303) 894-2383 x1211

NWCCOG Media Contact: Steve Getz
sgetz@nwc.cog.co.us
(970) 468-0295 x103

LEADVILLE CELEBRATES COLORADO WEATHERIZATION DAY ON OCTOBER 27

An Energy Efficient Home is the Best Way to Beat Rising Energy Costs

Leadville, CO, October 27, 2004 – October is Energy Awareness month and the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) wants to celebrate the accomplishments of the Weatherization program which provides free energy efficiency services to income-qualified recipients. Energy Saving Partners (E\$P), a program of OEMC, oversees Colorado's Weatherization program which is delivered via eight local agencies. On October 27, "Weatherization Day", a nationwide event, will be celebrated in Leadville. The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG), Leadville's local weatherization agency, will conduct an energy efficiency and safety demonstration on a local Leadville home.

After weatherization, families experience an average energy use reduction of 20 percent or more. However, one in four families saves 37 percent in bills. With the rising prices in natural gas, energy conservation programs are essential this winter. Colorado households experience improved energy efficiency, financial, and health and safety gains through Weatherization services.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) has professionally trained crews using computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment to identify energy-saving strategies in single-family, multi-family, and mobile homes. Cost-effective weatherization measures and those that are essential for health and safety are then performed, including, but not limited to, carbon monoxide testing, installation of insulation, repair and replacement of furnaces or boilers.

"The best defense against rising energy prices is a weatherized and insulated house. This is a real solution to higher costs and not just a government subsidy. The money saved is spent back in groceries, clothing and food for the family," said Jeff Ackermann, program manager of E\$P.

Approximately 200 homes are weatherized each year by NWCCOG. These weatherized households experience improved energy efficiency, financial, health and safety gains.

Low-income households struggling with their utility bills can also receive help through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). LEAP eligible households also automatically qualify for weatherization services. LEAP and E\$P work hand-in-hand: LEAP represents an immediate response to the situation, and E\$P offers a longer term solution. E\$P is funded through the US Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Human Services, and Xcel Energy, Inc.

For the past 28 years, Weatherization has provided Colorado's neediest families with safe, warm comfortable homes through energy saving measures. Almost 90,000 homes have been weatherized in Colorado.

Leadville is the third event in the state to celebrate Weatherization Day, with events held October 25 in Grand Junction; October 26 in Denver and October 28 in Longmont. For more information or how to qualify for weatherization services, contact E\$P at 1-888-HEATLINE or in Leadville, call NWCCOG at (970) 468-0295 x 103 or toll-free at (800) 332-3669 x 103.



About Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG)

The Energy Management Program helps low and moderate income households reduce their fuel consumption and heating costs through services such as installation of caulking and weatherstripping, insulation, storm windows and furnace tune-ups. NWCCOG is a local administering agency under the Weatherization Assistance Program. Weatherization has helped preserve affordable housing units in the region and, by reducing a household's energy consumption and expenditures, increases the amount of money that these households have available to spend in their local communities. This program is utilized by Chaffee, Clear Creek, Garfield, Lake, Moffat, Park, Rio Blanco and Routt counties as well as NWCCOG member jurisdictions of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit. Contact NWCCOG toll-free (800)-332-3669.

—End—